



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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Event: Sentencing

Defendant: Frank Sahutske, 48 of Warren, Michigan

A resident of Warren, Michigan was sentenced today in federal court to 5 years probation for assaulting a flight attendant and passenger aboard a Northwest Airlines flight bound for Detroit, Michigan from Narita, Japan, announced United States Attorney Craig S. Morford.

Receiving the sentence from United States District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff, was Frank Sahutske, age 48, who offered a plea of guilty to one count of simple assault on June 22, 2004.

According to information provided to the Court at the sentencing and prior to the guilty plea hearing, Sahutske, while intoxicated during the November 14, 2003 flight from Narita, Japan, became loud and unruly. He began disturbing and physically touching the passengers around him. When he refused to comply with the flight attendants' requests to quiet down and return to his seat, he was removed to a "jump seat" in the back of the aircraft. Sahutske continued to behave in an unruly manner by attempting to trip passengers, punching one passenger in the stomach and striking a flight attendant. As a result of Sahutske's behavior, the flight was diverted from its original destination of Detroit, Michigan and made to land in Anchorage, Alaska.

As part of the probationary sentence, Sahutske was ordered to serve 1 year in a community corrections center and pay restitution to Northwest Airlines in the amount of \$57,900. This amount represents the delay, fuel and crew costs incurred by Northwest as a result of the diversion. Additionally, Sahutske was ordered to write a minimum 15 page essay on the environmental impact of dumping 6600 tons of fuel into the ocean (which the aircraft had to do in order to safely land in Alaska) and write an individual apology letter to every passenger aboard the Northwest Airlines flight that Mr. Sahutske caused to be diverted. According to a document provided by Sahutske prior to sentencing, the Federal Aviation Administration also assessed a \$12,500 civil penalty in connection with this incident.

Mr. Morford commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its investigation of this case which led to the successful prosecution of Mr. Sahutske.